

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
HENRY F. DONOVAN, Editor and Proprietor,
504 TEUTONIC BUILDING,
Southeast Corner Washington St. and 4th Av.
(Entered at the postoffice, Chicago, Illinois,
as second-class mail matter.)



**LARGEST
WEEKLY CIRCULATION
IN CHICAGO.**

FOR PRESIDENT 1904.



CARTER H. HARRISON.

THE SHOOTING OF THE PRESIDENT

President McKinley was holding at the Pan-American Exposition one of the informal hand-shaking public receptions which have become characteristic of the American people. He was complying with an American custom which foreigners ridicule, not without cause. Perhaps the practice will be abandoned now that its possibilities of danger have become apparent.

Among those who stepped forward to grasp the President's hand was one who held in his left hand a pistol hidden by a handkerchief. When he took the President's right hand with his left hand he pointed blank, inflicting two wounds, one in the chest, which is not dangerous, and another in the stomach, which is graver in its nature. The would-be murderer attempted to hide his identity, but he is Leon Czolgosz, a laborer, of Cleveland, O. The motives which actuated him are yet a mystery.

This wicked and cruel act will horrify the country. It must be wholly without motive or rational excuse. Of all men it might be supposed President McKinley would be the last one to be chosen as the target of an assassin's bullet. It was not supposed that he had any enemies. It may be said that he had, as it was of Duncan, that he—

Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So dear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels trumpet-tongued against
The deep damnation of his taking-off.

If President McKinley ever had enemies he has converted them into active or at least passive friends. It is

winning and attractive personality manifested on the most conspicuous of stages which has silenced the unfriendly criticism which was heard when he first ran for the Presidency. When he ran for the second time the effects of the confidence and affection with which he had inspired the people became apparent. He was renominated by acclamation. He was elected after a campaign marked with little acrimony by the votes of the members of his own party and of many votes drawn from the other party. It may be said with truth that these latter votes elected him.

Under his delicate and kindly management of affairs the last traces of animosity between North and South had died away. Under him as Commander-in-Chief old Union and Confederate Generals fought side by side. He has pacified his party. It has ceased to have factions. It is at peace within itself as it has not been since it was organized. The President has no foes within or without his party. There has come again under him that "era of good feeling," which existed during the last term of President Monroe.

When President McKinley left his quiet home at Canton to mingle with the throngs at Buffalo he might well have believed himself immune from all personal attack. He "feared no danger, for he knew no sin." He had no ambitious desires the gratification of which could interfere with any one. His sole ambition was to serve out in peace the remainder of his last term and then retire to private life. No disappointed office-seekers dogged his footsteps as they did those of Garfield. Yet it is this man of all men who was struck down.

That which happened will make the people of the United States ask themselves if they must always be subject to the proxysmal rule of disordered intellects—if they can have no confidence in the stability of government. They cannot have if some man, actuated by personal feelings, or some lunatic can remove the chief magistrate of a great nation, and in so doing change perhaps the whole course of national history. Is the established order of things to be at the mercy of a crank or a madman? Must a President of the United States keep himself secluded from the world like the Sultan of Turkey. In order that he may be able to serve out the term for which the people have elected him, or must he subject himself to the perils of sudden death and to the reversal of the policies he was elected to carry out whenever he appears in public?

This is the question which calls for an answer. If a man as blameless as President McKinley, a woman as inoffensive as the Empress of Austria, a King who was so free from wrongdoing as King Humbert, a ruler as upright as President Carnot, become the objects of the assassin's weapons, what can society do for the protection of others occupying similar exalted stations and for its own protection?

SENATOR WELLINGTON'S POSITION

George L. Wellington, who happens to be one of the United States Senators from Maryland, has violated all the dictates of common decency in his comments on the attempted assassination of the President. So mean and narrow is the mind of Wellington that he can see in the assault on the Chief Executive of the nation only an attack on a personal enemy of his own, of whom he "can say nothing good," while "under the circumstances" he "does not care to say anything bad." Instead of sharing the almost universal regret in the attack on the chosen representative of law and good government, Wellington expresses himself as "indifferent to the whole matter." Voluntarily he classes himself with the few rabid and fanatical anarchists who either rejoice at the assault on McKinley or feel with Wellington a "complete indifference." They may plead that they have a principle at stake, but the Maryland statesman is actuated only by a petty personal and political spite.

At the same time there seems to be no reason why the suggestion made by influential Southern newspapers that Wellington be expelled from the Senate should be acted on. As a matter of fact, decent people everywhere reciprocate for Wellington the "indifference" which he expresses toward the stricken President. He has placed himself outside the bounds of consideration or respect. He has made of himself a social as well as a political pariah. He deserves neither notice nor consideration. If the men of the South are wise they will leave him in the obscurity where he belongs. If he could by any chance get the Senate to "make a martyr of him" he would have a little longer opportunity to bask in the notoriety which he seems to enjoy. He is unpleasant but by no means important. Let him pass.—Tribune.

BLOCKI REPLIES TO RANDOLPH.

In an open letter addressed to Alderman Mayor Commissioner of Public Works F. W. Blocki makes a spirited reply to the recent criticism of the city administration by Engineer Isham Randolph of the sanitary district regarding the failure to complete the Thirty-ninth street intercepting sewer. Mr. Blocki's statements are characterized as "misleading, both to the board and the public."

The delay in the work, Commissioner Blocki asserts, has resulted from inability of the city to get the sanitary district to agree upon plans for the pumping station. After referring to the efforts which have been made to induce the sanitary district either to approve the plans made by the city or to submit plans satisfactory to the city Mr. Blocki says:

"I wish to call your attention to the fact that the Commissioner of Public Works has no authority either to enter into an agreement with the sanitary district or to proceed to construct a plant of greater size than that ordered by the City Council, which is 40,000 cubic feet per minute maximum. Also,

that should the sanitary district desire a plant of the capacity of 120,000 cubic feet per minute it is necessary that it should send a communication to the City Council in order that the Commissioner of Public Works may receive his authority from that body.

"The city of Chicago is not bound, nor do I believe it could take into consideration the matter of an additional flow for the purpose of giving sufficient flow in the Chicago river to bring the sanitary district within the law regarding such flow. The additional 80,000 cubic feet per minute which the sanitary district desires pumped through the Thirty-ninth street conduit is not necessary for the dilution of the sewage which will pass through said conduit, nor is it necessary to keep the south branch of the Chicago river in good condition.

"It is simply for the purpose of making a sufficient flow for the drainage canal to come within the law, and I believe this can be accomplished in a much more economical way than by erecting a pumping station for the sole purpose of pumping lake water into the Chicago river in order to give sufficient flow through the drainage canal to come within the law as passed, which is an obligation on the sanitary district."

ANARCHY AND IGNORANCE.

It is likely that in Emma Goldman, taken into custody, the police have a fairly representative type, and the type is one which deserves study.

The police—possibly to their surprise—found Miss Goldman a neatly attired, not unamiable person, combative in spirit but measurably self-possessed, using good English and not noticeably truant in hearing or in manner of speech. At the hour of her arrest she had a book in her hand, and it is not unlikely that in ordinary life she would be found similarly engaged a good deal of the time. It is a safe inference from her telegram to her relative in Rochester, asking him to "comfort mother," that Miss Goldman, among her friends and associates, is mild-mannered, good-natured, even affectionate.

If it be asked, then, what is it that makes this other wise sane and well-behaved person take up with the exploded nonsense of the "philosophical" anarchist and look with indifference upon such heinous crimes as those of Bresci, Luchini and Czolgosz, the answer must be sought in that total lack of a capacity for disciplined thought which is the characteristic sign of the theoretical anarchist everywhere. Without that capacity or without the ability to take a sane point of view and perceive what is sound thought in others, one may read widely and acquire plenty of facts and still be ignorant, this ignorance being of the worst sort. Miss Goldman, like the theorists of her kind everywhere, probably knows at once both too little and too much. If she had read less the fatuous ideas of half-baked theorists might never have come within her notice. If she knew more she would see their hopeless folly and the outrageous and criminal character of the deeds to which they lead.

It is the smatterer, the person able to understand a part but not the whole, the individual who cannot distinguish between what is true and what is mere mock-heroic balderdash—it is this person to whom the lunacy of theoretical anarchist appeals. In many cases the theoretical anarchist is himself devoid of the will or the wish to commit acts of violence, but the danger from his presence is that with his little parade of cheap learning he makes an impression upon others even more unenlightened than himself. At bottom the ultimate cure for anarchy is true education. It is the theoretical anarchist, with his head—or her head—filled with half truths, half understood, who leads in teaching anarchy and gives inspiration to the wretched dupes who try with dynamite and pistol to put the theory into practice.—News.

GRADE CROSSINGS AGAIN.

Following close upon the grade crossing horror at 47th street comes the report of a similar accident at 63d and Leavitt streets, seven persons who tried to cross the track in a wagon being injured and two of them narrowly escaping death. This particular crossing, it is stated, is protected by neither gates, lights nor flagmen. The driver of the wagon and his six companions drove upon the track unwarned of the approach of a train, and apparently their escape from death is wholly a matter of luck, says the News.

The fact that most of them did escape with only minor injuries does not diminish the force of this further lesson as to the danger constantly present in the grade crossing. In the light of these repeated demonstrations, continued neglect to carry on to completion the important work of track elevation will be regarded as indicative of a gross disregard of the sacredness of human life. The perils of these man-traps cannot be remedied by minor safeguards. The affair at 47th street showed that. The way to remove the danger of the grade crossing is to remove the grade crossing. But until the city has secured the completion of this work there should be no loss of time in at least compelling gates and flagmen to be provided at all crossings.

LINCOLN, GARFIELD, M'KINLEY.

In recalling the history of past assassinations we are struck by the fact that the three Presidents who have thus far fallen victims to murderous fanaticism have been three of the mildest and most lovable men, in their personal characters, who ever occupied the position of chief magistrate of the nation. Lincoln, whose infinite humanity has made his memory something very like religion, was the first. Garfield's personal charm and ready sympathy were almost the strongest influences in his elevation to the post that brought death to him, and McKinley has been designated by Senator Hoar, who differs widely with him in important political matters, as the "best-loved President the country ever had." If there is any significance in this fact, it is merely by way of emphasis on the conclusion that these deeds of madmen

are directed against the office, and not against the man. We have had Presidents who were the objects of many and bitter personal animosities and hatreds; but these escaped, while madmen close as their victims the gentlest and most generous of all our line of executives.—Journal.

POLITICS IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Fire Marshal Musham has seen fit to transfer three of his battalion chiefs, and, because one of the men involved, which Musham was appointed, it is charged that the chief is allowing personal and political feeling to influence him to the detriment of the service, says the Tribune. Former Chief Swenke is quoted as saying that while he does not know whether or not politics cut any figure in the transfers, he thinks a mistake was made in putting another man in the place of Marshal Horan in charge of the downtown fire district. The public has the greatest respect and affection for Denis Swenke, but at the same time the feeling will be somewhat general that the old chief has violated the canons of good taste, at least, in criticising the actions of his successor in a way which is calculated to cause him embarrassment. Nobody will imagine that the recent discharge of Denis Swenke's son from his place as a clerk in the fire alarm office on the order of Marshal Musham has embittered him to a point where he would utter an unjust criticism. At the same time, under all the circumstances, it would be more becoming on his part to maintain a dignified silence. As for Chief Musham, he should be given credit for the best motives in making changes in the department until something more than a mere personal opinion can be brought forward to substantiate charges against him. The people who are really bringing politics into the fire department are those who make unwarranted charges and indulge in criticisms which can only embarrass the new chief. He should be allowed a free hand until he demonstrates that he does not deserve it.

EAGLETS.

Listing of taxable property is at an end. The Board of Review closed its business Wednesday afternoon as far as the taxing of property was concerned, and there will be no more discoveries of property which has not been assessed.

The board has not yet decided the amount of the assessment for the elevated railroads, and does not know the value of the steam railroad property transferred from schedule A, which means trackage, to schedule D, which means real estate taxable locally. The actual result in figures of the work of the Board of Review probably will be known Saturday.

In the whirl of the closing session the board settled the assessment for the department stores, decided to tax the franchise of the Chicago Union Traction Company, discovered assessable property of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and unearthed an unfortunate individual who had not been assessed by the Board of Assessors, but who, the reviewers thought, ought to pay taxes on \$500,000 worth of personal property.

The total assessments probably will reach \$400,000,000, according to Reviewer Upham. The real estate valuation has been raised from \$227,000,000 to \$250,000,000. The elevated railroads probably will be assessed at \$22,000,000. The State Board of Equalization will raise the total with its assessments on railroad property.

Jesse P. Lyman, 4853 Lake avenue, was assessed for personal property valued at \$500,000. He is President of the packing firm of G. H. Hammond Company, of Hammond, Ind., and had escaped the attention of the Board of Assessors.

Kind friends notified the Board of Review that his affairs might be worth looking into, with the result that Mr. Lyman will have to pay taxes on a fortune, unless the courts decide he is not as rich as his neighbors think he is.

Reductions amounting to \$2,013,304 were made during the day, principally on the down town department stores. Two months ago Reviewer Upham was ordered to investigate these stores and bring in a report. Mr. Upham's report was made after consultation with experts, and the Board of Review decided that the reductions were just.

The board decided to assess the West Chicago franchises of the Chicago Union Traction Company at \$1,000,000. In order that a test suit may be brought to decide whether such franchises can be taxed. The action was taken on the opinion of Attorney Frank L. Shepard, who held that the board had the right to tax such franchises. About \$1,000,000 of real estate belonging to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company was transferred to schedule D and assessed.

A protest was made against the high assessment of Clark street property north of Jackson street, in the downtown district, and this matter will be taken up by the board. The question of taxing grain is also to be taken up.

Fire Marshal Musham's order transferring Battalion Chief Horan from the command of the first to that of the fifth battalion excites much comment both in City Hall and insurance circles. Local insurance men were taken completely by surprise by this sudden move by Chief Musham, and they were unable to understand it. For that reason many of them declined to discuss the matter until they had inquired into the reasons for the change. Those who did, however, supported the chief.

Marshal Horan has a splendid reputation as a fire fighter among the insurance men, and his sudden transfer from the downtown district caused considerable comment. Chief Musham explained his action by saying that the fifth is a much more important post than the first battalion.

"It was in the line of promotion," he said. "In the fifth district there are many large furniture factories and other large buildings, and the fires are important. Here downtown the battalion chief is always second in com-

mand of a fire, or perhaps third in command. There is never even a first alarm struck downtown but first Assistant Marshal Campton or I go out on it, and we take command over the battalion chief. The responsibility is on either Campton or me, not on the battalion chief. If anything is done wrong at one of these fires, just watch and see who is held for any mistakes. In the fifth district Horan will be practically in sole command, for I do not usually go far from here on first alarms."

Insurance men generally declared that Chief Musham's wisdom in the management of the fire department should not be questioned. They took the stand that Mr. Musham, as chief of the fire department, knows more of the needs of the department than they do. They expressed the utmost confidence in the chief.

Mayor Harrison will at an early day send a message to the City Council asking for the appointment of a committee to visit the State Board of Equalization at Springfield and request it to assess according to law the corporations of Chicago and to levy all the back assessments against these corporations which the board has neglected to make during the last twenty-five years.

"I announced a month ago," said Corporation Counsel Walker, "that I intended to bring a mandamus suit against the State Board of Equalization to compel it to assess the Chicago corporations and to make now all the assessments against them that had been neglected in past years. Well, after mature deliberation, Mayor Harrison and I have reached the conclusion that such drastic measures were not necessary to accomplish this end."

"Our present plan is for the Mayor to send a message to the Council asking for the appointment of a committee to go to Springfield and lay the case before the State Board. We have been at work for some time preparing for this step and are not quite through yet. We are making up a statement of the work of the board in the past and of its effect on the prosperity of Chicago. This is not done at all in a threatening spirit, for we fully believe that the board will acquiesce at once in our request and introduce the reform which we wish to bring about."

Although the Mayor and Corporation Counsel now give no countenance to the idea of a mandamus suit, it is well known that Assistant Corporation Counsel Schofield has devoted all his time for the last month to preparing such a suit. It is known also that the Controller's office has been at work for weeks making a digest of the shortcomings of the State Board. It is not believed by any one conversant with the situation that these preparations will not be put to good account if need be.

A story is circulating among Republican politicians in Springfield that at a conference held in the Leland Hotel there, at which Congressman Reeves, Speaker Sherman, Attorney General Hannan and former Senator O. F. Berry, of Carthage, were present, it was practically agreed that these four factors in Illinois politics would unite in support of Congressman Reeves for the United States Senate. According to the stories told, the four met by appointment. They were all of a mind to fight shy of the Dawes boom for various reasons, and as Congressman Reeves is not averse to making the race and is looked upon as a possible winner in the event of his candidacy, it was agreed to unite in his support.

The four leaders participating in the conference have large political followings in their respective sections of the State, and a coalition among them would be of sufficient strength to figure seriously in the chances of any Senatorial candidate.

All steam boilers under sidewalks in Chicago are to be removed. Under orders from Mayor Harrison, Boiler Inspector Blaney Wednesday began serving notices. How many of these boilers there are is not known, but there must be hundreds, if not thousands. The order from the Mayor is as follows:

"As the placing of steam boilers under sidewalks is a violation of the city ordinances, you will see that all such boilers are removed at once."

The first building attacked was the Continental, at 146 Franklin street. The owners protested that the boiler was perfectly safe, but the fire was ordered drawn and thirty days were allowed in which to make the change. Notice was also served at the following buildings in the same district:

Patrick Building, Madison and Market streets.
Marshall Building, Monroe and Franklin.
Gilbreath Building, Madison and Franklin.
Chicago Opera House, Clark and Washington.
Norton Milling Company, Madison street and the river.

"As fast as we can find other cases of boilers under sidewalks they will have to go," said Inspector Blaney. "The order was given at the time of the Doremus explosion," explained the Mayor, "but in the mixup at that time and the change of administration in the boiler inspection office it was overlooked. Now it is to be put in force. Boilers under sidewalks are dangerous. Should one explode the damage would be great."

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association has prepared resolutions deploring the attempt on the life of President McKinley, and of the existence of anarchical sentiment in this country. These have been sent to the President together with a letter of congratulations on the improvement of his condition.

Country milk dealers, according to Health Department officials, are now sending pure milk to Chicago. Chief Milk Inspector Grady, City Chemist Blisbee and Inspectors Sussmann and Wells visited an incoming Chicago and Northwestern milk train at Kinzie and Clinton streets and inspected fifteen cans of milk. For the first time in two

years of such inspections none of the cans was found to contain watered or adulterated milk.

The Drainage Board has decided to advertise at once for a pump and pumping station to lift the contents of the 39th street conduit into the South Branch of the river. Chief Engineer Randolph reported that under its contract with the city the Drainage Board would have to provide for an 80,000 cubic foot pump, the city to lift 40,000 additional, and it was necessary that the work be undertaken at once.

The scholarly Donald L. Morrill will be one of the new Judges in all probability.

At a meeting of the First and Second Ward Business Men's Improvement Association, held at Friedberg's Hall, 180 22d street, a report was submitted recommending the placing of electric lights under the elevated structure of the South Side Rapid Transit Company, at all streets and alleys where they are required. The report will be submitted to the aldermen of the South Side wards.

The new rule to enable the Merit Board to investigate the whole police department without reference to the filing of charges by department heads is still hanging fire in the corporation counsel's office, where it is undergoing scrutiny as to its legality. Its adoption must be preceded by ten days' publication, so that the general investigation cannot be held before Sept. 24, and may be delayed much longer. Meanwhile Captain Callahan and Chief O'Neill are busy with the anarchy investigations.

P. McHugh, who has the respect of bench, bar and public will probably be one of the Democratic nominees for Judge next year.

James Swenke, son of former Chief Swenke, was dismissed from the fire department by Chief Musham. The charge was inattention to duty and continued absences without leave. Swenke has been a clerk in the office of the fire department for many years, being given a place by his father. Since Chief Musham was appointed, it is said, he has had considerable trouble with Swenke, and said he had only discharged the son of his predecessor after four warnings.

At the meeting of the sanitary trustees Monday Alderman Duddleston stated that he had made arrangements with the owners of property abutting on the east side of the river for the use of docks in case a pontoon bridge could be thrown across the stream during the erection of the new bascule structure at Randolph street. He added that the city is prepared to bear the expense of caring for the temporary bridge if the trustees will build it.

Alderman Edward F. Callerton says he will introduce into the Council an ordinance requiring all owners of penny-in-the-slot gum, candy and peanut machines to pay the city an annual license fee of \$2 for each machine. Alderman Kent was working on the same line last spring. There are thousands of such machines in use, and the tax of \$2 each would net the city much revenue.

There is good judicial timber in Daniel J. McMahon. He is popular with everybody.

After considerable investigation it is declared that another mistake on the part of the engrossing clerks in the office of the Secretary of State at Springfield has nullified an act of the last Legislature in which Chicago is interested. The act in question is that turning over the Lake Front Park to the South Park commission. Three amendments were added to the bill in the House and concurred in by the Senate granting permission to a private corporation to erect an exposition building on the lake front for the purpose of "exhibiting agricultural, mechanical, electrical, art and other exhibits." The clerks in engrossing the bill simply left these amendments off, and as a consequence the bill is void.

City Boiler Inspector Blaney has sworn out warrants for the arrest of Manson & Daniels, contractors on the government building, for a refusal to submit to an inspection of the sixteen boilers employed for hoisting and other purposes on the work.

On the suggestion of Superintendent W. Lester Bodine of the compulsory education department, the pencils used in the schools are to be sterilized with formalin to prevent the transmission of diphtheria and other diseases.

The West Park Commissioners decided to open the fishing season in Humboldt, Garfield and Jackson parks on Sunday, Sept. 15. No fishing is to be allowed from the banks, piers or floats. Fishing will be permitted only from boats by those holding tickets. The rule against fishing after 9 o'clock on Sunday mornings has been removed.

Captain Wm. P. Black, Wm. Prentiss, Major E. B. Tolman, George Mills Rogers, John C. King, D. J. McMahon, Miles J. Devine, Donald L. Morrill and P. McHugh are all mentioned for Judicial honors.

With three schools not reported, the total attendance at the public schools Sept. 6, was 208,008 for the grammar and elementary grades, and 9,148 for the high schools. No figures for a corresponding date last year are available, but the report at hand shows a large increase, according to school officials.

Many years ago Sir Arthur Phelps maintained that the amelioration of the race would not come through political reforms nor the labor of social agita-

tors, but through the discoveries of science and the work of inventors. Social and economic reforms are slow. It takes a long time to get a majority. Inventions, on the other hand, are almost instantly available and can be universally applied. Remarkable changes in the condition of the people and in the cost of living will be wrought if Mr. Edison's discovery of a cheap method of producing a superior quality of Portland cement proves to be practicable. His prediction is that the cement can be sold profitably at \$5 a ton. The future house will not be built but poured. The contractor will have a number of moulds of various sizes and styles of architecture. The excavation for the foundation will be made, the mould set over the site and the cement poured in. In a short time the cement will be hard as stone, and there you are with a cottage or a palace poured to order. For a few hundred dollars a structure may be erected, which, under present methods of construction, would cost \$10,000. Moreover, Mr. Edison says, the work may be done by unskilled labor. Both the social and political reformer must welcome every factor that reduces the price of living and lends toward the betterment of the race in material things. Indeed there are those who believe that moral betterment comes only with material well-being and a political school is founded upon this precept. Preachments at both ends of this article aside, inquiry at the lumber yards, brick kilns and hardware stores of the city discloses no present apprehension respecting Mr. Edison's discovery.

It is a singular fact that the only legation buildings owned by the United States Government are those in the capitals of China and Japan. In capitals of other countries Uncle Sam pays rent, although it is believed that he does not save money by the operation. This country would not own its legation real estate in Tokio and Peking, doubtless, had not the sites been presented by Japan and China respectively. Even with the free land to begin with, Congress would not build a home for the American minister to Japan. He was therefore compelled to erect a legation building at his own expense. It was a good investment, however, because for thirty years or more he rented it to his successors at a rate that paid him an excellent rate of interest. Two or three years ago he refused to make the necessary repairs, and Congress appropriated the money for a new building. The legation building at Peking was erected by the United States Government at a small cost, and since then other inexpensive houses have been put up for offices, but the accommodations have been inconvenient and unnecessarily humble. The late Congress authorized the erection of a legation building at Peking commensurate with the prominent position this country has taken in Chinese affairs. Forty thousand dollars will be spent in acquiring additional ground and laying the foundation for the new building. It is characteristic of American dealings with weak nations that the President has instructed the Peking legation to pay a fair price for the land, although the European governments have simply confiscated the property they want.

The increased interest which women of the present day take in public matters is well shown by the number of "Current-Topic Classes" which have come into existence within a few years. The purpose is to gain a reasonable knowledge of the great questions of the day. There may be few members or many, and wide differences of opinion may, and in fact, usually do, exist within the class; but that does not matter. Once a week, or once in two weeks, the members meet, and a teacher, or leader, presents matters of public interest and importance as clearly and extensively as possible. Afterward questions are asked and answered, and the discussion becomes general. The success of such an association depends much upon the ability of the teacher, who may be some one hired for the purpose, or a member who has enjoyed greater educational advantages and has more leisure than her fellows. It is not necessary that the presentation of matters under discussion be colorless. Quite as good results are often obtained when the leader expresses his or her own convictions. The object is not merely to form an opinion on such evidence as may be presented at the meetings, but to learn what is the prevailing opinion of those who have given the subject most attention and are best qualified to judge. Nevertheless the leader should be fair and capable of seeing both sides of the matter. Current-topic classes are more common in the cities than in the country. It ought to be just the other way, for the towns and small villages offer less variety of entertainment and instruction, and such associations as these may be made a valuable means of intellectual stimulus and diversion. The cost need be little or nothing, for there is hardly a village in the United States so small that it does not harbor at least one man or woman capable of lending such a class, and willing to do it without charge.

Robbers are able to overawe trainloads and stage-loads of people for two reasons. One is that the people, relying on the theory that they are traveling in a country where life and property are fully protected, are always taken unawares. The other is that both by habit and by social rule the majority of people are not trained or prepared to shoot quickly in defense of their property against outlaws.

Only \$50 to California and Return—General Convention of the P. O. Church, San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 2, 1901.

For this meeting the Chicago, Great Western Railway will, on Sept. 19 to 27, sell through excursion tickets to San Francisco, good to return Nov. 16, 1901, at the low rate of \$50 for the round trip. Rates via Portland, Ore., \$9 higher. Stop-overs allowed.

For further information inquire of any Great Western agent or J. P. Elmer, G. F. A., Chicago, Ill.